

Foreword

Nothing can kill or injure someone more quickly than electricity or charged equipment. When a worker reaches for a power line or puts an arm inside a piece of heavy machinery, he or she acts in good faith that all hazardous energy has been locked out from the work zone.

A Guide to the Control of Hazardous Energy (Lockout/Tagout) examines the threat workers face from these hazards and explains the Occupational Safety and Health Act rules regarding such dangers. There are also sections in this guide to help employers devise lockout/tagout safety procedures and plans at their companies.

In North Carolina, N.C. Department of Labor inspectors enforce the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act through a state plan approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. The N.C. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Division offers many educational programs to the public and produces publications, including this guide, to help inform people about their rights and responsibilities regarding occupational safety and health.

When looking through this guide, please remember OSHA's mission is greater than just to enforce regulations. An equally important goal is to help people find ways to create safe workplaces. This booklet, like the other educational materials produced by the N.C. Department of Labor, can help.

Cherie Berry
Commissioner of Labor